THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Fruit Products Order, 1955 is intended to regulate the quality and marketing of the products which come under its purview.

(b) to (d) Synthetic beverages including sweetened aerated waters syrups, sharbats, vinegar and jellies without any fruit content are also covered under the Order with a view to regulating their quality and marketing, as they compete with fruit-based products. Ice-cream and pastries donot have competitive relationship with fruit-based products and, therefore, do not figure in the Order.

Items covered by F. P. O. and Essential Commodities Act

835. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items covered by the Fruit Product Order and the Essential Commodities Act which are neither Fruit nor an Essential Commodity;

(b) what are the reasons for covering them and whether there are other agencies controlling the quality of these products; and

(c) why is Washing Powders not covered under F.P.O. since it is atleast an essential commodity even though it does not contain Fruit as much as synthetic vinegar or aerated water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The items covered by the Fruit Products Order, 1955 come in the category of 'essential commodity' as defined under Section 2 of the Essential Commodities Act. Apart from fruit and vegetable-based products items like synthetic beverages including sweetened aerated waters, syrups, sharbats, vinegar and jellies without any fruit content are also covered under the Order with view to regulating their quality and marketing, as they compete with fruit-based products. Washing powder does not have anything to do with fruit-based products and, therefore, does not figure in the Order. Officers authorised under the Order regulate the quality of the fruit products with reference to the provisions of that Order. In addition, the authorities under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act also have the jurisdiction to exercise quality control on these products with reference to that Act.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Madhya Pradesh

836. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is extreme shortage of drinking water in cities and towns of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the requirement of drinking water in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide the drinking water in the tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the time limit by when Government propose to provide drinking water to the affected areas of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, in some cities and in some of them in summer months.

(b) The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has intimated that it is providing interim relief by exploring alternate sources, drilling tube-wells and transportation of water through tankers. Subject to plan allotment, new or augmentation schemes are also being taken up by the State Government to provide permanent relief.

A Centrally Study team visited the State in December, 1986 for and on the spot study of the drought situation in the State. The Govt. of India after considering the